

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6-15, 18-28, 31, and 33-45 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 12, 15, and 28 are cancelled, claims 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 31, 34, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 45 are amended and no new claims are added.

In the decision issued on September 30, 2009, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences reversed all pending rejections with respect to claims 11, 13, 24, and 38. Accordingly, as specified in the subsequent Office Communication of December 16, 2009, these claims are now presented in independent form. All other pending claims have been amended to depend from one of these independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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